

Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force Meeting Minutes



Location: Erie County Fire Training Academy
Date: Monday, June 19, 2017
Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM
Attendees: Barbara Burns, John Gaeddert, Dawn Vanderkooi, Frank Scarpinato, Robert Whitney, Allexxia Mergenhausen, Anne Rohrer, Geoff Klein, Kate Chudoba, Al Delmerico, Matt Smith, Mary Beth Konesky, Karl Wende

Agenda items

1. Welcome
2. Since we last met:
 - a. The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (ECCPASA):
 - i. Proposed methadone clinic in Amherst: primary opposition is coming from nine or so households that are situated right next to the site. ECCPASA is working to counter their arguments.
 - ii. ECCPASA is circulating a draft brochure. Dr. Burstein has said that EC will print up a large number of copies; it can also be distributed electronically.
 - b. The episode of "Talk With Your Mouth Full" discussing the opiate epidemic and Narcan has aired!
 - i. Alan is interested in re-airing it, perhaps in September. (September is Recovery Month, and it's also when "Family Days" fall.)
 - ii. Ideally, it could be re-aired at one or more local restaurants, as a way to encourage family unity
 - c. OASAS Coalition Group met last week:
 - i. NYS has not disbursed money yet, but efforts are proceeding regardless.
 - ii. The group believes there is much value in dovetailing "anti-stigma efforts" into "anti-addiction efforts," so that will help shape
 - d. Legislature has released \$1 million for combatting the opiate epidemic, but it's being routed through specific channels:
 - i. Medical Examiner's office will hire more staff
 - ii. Purchasing Adapt Pharma Narcan (this will **only** be distributed to emergency responders: police and fire. Civilians will receive the product we're currently distributing through New York State)
 - iii. An RFP (request for projects) will be distributed, with \$500,000 funding for projects to address the epidemic. See "Upcoming Events" for more.
3. Upcoming events
 - a. RFP:
 - i. The [RFP](#) has been published (as of June 19 or 20), and will only be open for a few weeks (until July 7). The County wants to disburse funds quickly (by July 16).
 - ii. It's intended for projects that probably wouldn't be funded otherwise: either "brand new projects" or "projects that were thought of already but have never been implemented."
4. School Programming: giving a 60-minute presentation to staff and/or students during the first few days of school
 - a. The draft material will be circulated to the whole committee

- b. Once it's finished, school superintendents would be approached to get permission
 - c. Schools tend to schedule their training days on the same schedule, so the workgroup would need multiple members who could "divide and conquer," covering all interested area schools
 - d. This would be about education (communicating 3-4 strong talking points), not advising districts on how to set policy.
5. Movie: "In the Blink of an Eye":
- a. Two portions; a fictional account of a suburban, white, female user making a purchase in the city, and a segment with two real-life users in the restrooms at the Main Place Mall.
 - b. Apparently one of the real-life users had some real drugs on site during filming, which is raising various thorny legal issues!
6. Summer Block Club Events
- a. Buffalo has five police districts; Frank and Barb will meet with the leadership of the five different Buffalo districts to talk about the Task Force.
 - b. The Task Force also wants to schedule community trainings (through Neighborhood Watch) to help educate citizens on how to collect information on criminal activities and report them to the police without putting themselves at risk.
7. Erie County Fair: August 9-20.
- a. Each workgroup is being asked to provide volunteers to help staff the tables. (Open days include August 9th, 13th, 18th, and 20th.)
 - b. The workgroup is discussing the creation of promotional materials. Small items work best; oftentimes printing a football or hockey schedule on the items ensures that the person will keep the item. (This must be done in a way that avoids copyright infringement.)
8. Next Meeting: July 17, 2017

Action items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status